

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interviews of March 2, 2005.

In the fax transmission of the Examiner of March 2, 2005, the Examiner states that Tanaka claims benefit from Serial No. 09/609,997, filed on February 29, 1996, which is the 102(e) date of Tanaka. For the record, the undersigned clarifies that the text copy of Tanaka on the USPTO website when viewed before filing the Amendment of November 4, 2004, and even on March 2, 2005, did *not* state that Tanaka claims benefit from Serial No. 09/609,997. This resulted in the confusion that Tanaka's 102(e) date is the filing date of May 17, 2002, when Tanaka was filed. During the second interview of March 2, 2005 the undersigned explained to the Examiner that the source of the confusion regarding Tanaka's 102(e) is the text copy of Tanaka on the USPTO website. The Examiner agreed. The Examiner then reviewed the complete file history of Tanaka and confirmed that Tanaka does indeed claim benefit from Serial No. 09/609,997, filed on February 29, 1996.

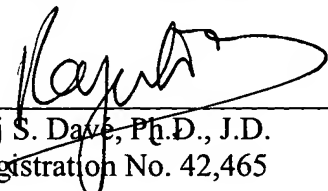
The undersigned suggested to the Examiner that Applicants might consider amending the dependent claims to depend from allowed claim 7. The Examiner agreed to this proposition, which has been adopted in this Amendment. At this point, claim 7 has been allowed and all other claims depend from claim 7. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this request and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that a fee is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing attorney docket no. **361752000910**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 18, 2005

By: _____


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